Committee has recommended support for diversification through margin money assistance and tie-up arrangements in all allied fields viz; improvement in productivity and quality of raw jute, interface between entrepreneurs and R&D institutions on the one hand and financial institutions and marketing channels on the other for transfer of technology etc.

Action has already been initiated for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee.

Export of Cotton

1585. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently decided to export 5 lakh bales of cotton;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the textile mills set up in the Southern region of the country are facing difficulties in the supply of raw material (cotton); and

(c) if so, the reasons for taking a decision for export of cotton ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) to (c) Considering the confortable stock position of cotton and bright prospects of the crop during the current cotton season in the country and also in terms of the long-term strategy for the Government for export of cotton to help the cotton farmers, the Government as a first instalment, released 7.26 lakh bales of cotton in the months of September and October, 1992. In addition, the Government has further released 2 lakh bales of cotton to the State Cooperative Marketing Federations for export on 27th November, 1992.

Closure of Panipat Woollen Mill at Kharar in Punjab

1586. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Textile Corporation has decided to close down the Panipat Woollen Mill at Kharar in Punjab after the Mill has shown a profit during the last three months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of workers likely to be rendered jobless as a result thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to review the decision in view of the fact that the mill has shown profit and also the resultant unemployment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) to (d) Panipat Woollen Mill, Kharar has been identified to be non-viable due to interalia, recurrent losses, low productivity, high man machine ratio etc. The question of closure of retention of individual mills of NTC will be taken up eventually after taking into consideration the impact on viability labour rationalisation now being done through Voluntary Retirement Scheme and other relevant factors.

12.00 NOON

(THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN In Hhe Chair)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Madam.. (*Interruptions*) .....

श्री एस एस० अहलुवालिया (बिहार) : मैडम, प्रश्नकाल शुरू होने के पहले ... (व्यवधान) ... ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Pleased sit down. I will allow ..(*Interruptions*).. Let me do my regular business and than I will allow you. Please sit down ..... (*Interruptions*).. Mr. Narayanasamy, please.

श्री एस० एस० अहलुवालिया : महोदया ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I will not go on record. I am not permitting just now. Papers to be laid on the Table. .. (*Interruptions*) ..Mr. Ahluwalia and everybody else, who ever is speaking please sit down. Let me finish laying of the Papers on the Table. Then I will allow you. I am not allowing you now .... (*Interruptions*).. No,, I have not allowed .. (*Interruptions*) ..